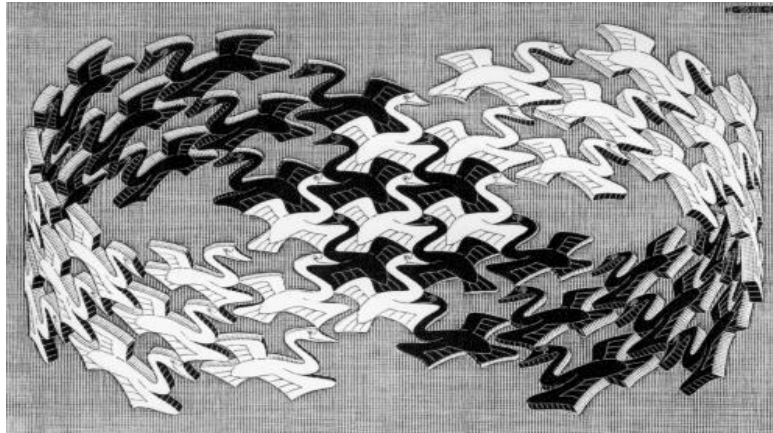


The Skill of Synthesis

What elements has
M.C Escher used?



What does it mean?

The word literally means to **combine**. The purpose of synthesis is to create something **new and different** from the individual elements that were compiled and used to form an interpretation.

For example our class wiki is made up of different pages. In each page a variety of information and activities has been posted under each topic or section.

The **purpose** of the unit is to get you to form **your own** understanding of Robert Lowell from having read and participated in a variety of activities.

When Synthesis is applied to Editing

Learning this skill can revolutionise your writing. It can literally elevate the sophistication of your interpretation and conceptualisation. But you cannot do this if you DO NOT read. You simply do not have the parts to combine.



Written by C. Batista

How do I do it?

Synthesis is only effective after the **first draft**. The first draft should focus on covering the material. The more drafts you edit the better your writing will be. The **word or time limit** (in the case of speeches or exams) determines the level of synthesis.

The synthesis process when used in editing is essentially a **deleting**, **compressing** and **reconfiguring** one.

EXAMPLE

1. Delete all superfluous words.

~~“One potential interpretation of the poem is that it contains a criticism of the decay of society and that it also defends Lowell’s rejection of his parentage”.~~

27
words

2. Compress & Reconfigure the idea.

- To do this though you need to be able to **summarise** your own writing. What the above example is trying to say is that Lowell achieves two purposes in his poem.
- To reconfigure your sentences you may need to change the **tense**, add more **precise** words or **expand** your use of vocabulary.

“One interpretation combines Lowell’s criticism of a decayed society whilst defending Lowell’s rejection of his parentage”.

16
words



*This is what I mean when I say our aim in writing is to write comprehensively (lots of detail) but concisely (with as few words as possible). But!!! It can only be done once the **ENTIRE** script has been read because you combine using information from the whole script.*

Written by C. Batista

CHECKLIST



1. Is a thesis statement directing your synthesis? ☐
2. Can you summarise your own idea? ☐
3. Do you have perceptive topic sentences? ☐
4. Delete all unnecessary words. ☐
5. Have you repeated yourself? Eliminate tautology. ☐
6. Are you writing in circles? Eliminate circumlocution. ☐
7. Eliminate verbosity – use of too many words to explain one point. ☐
8. Reconfigure sentence order. ☐
9. Reconfigure sentence parts. ☐
10. Reconfigure paragraph parts. ☐
11. Combine parts of different sentences together. ☐
12. Have you prioritised your paragraphs from most to least important? ☐
13. Have you changed/corrected the tense? ☐
14. Have you used precise adjectives? ☐
15. Have you expanded your vocabulary? ☐
16. Have you privileged literary techniques? ☐
17. Have you identified the most appropriate technique? ☐
18. Have you explained the meaning of the example cited? ☐
19. Do you have multiple examples in the one paragraph? ☐
20. Do you have a transitional or linking sentence in each paragraph? ☐
21. Have you read, reread and read again your own writing? ☐

Written by C. Batista